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DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF TIRES, TUBES IN POLAND

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The CSS (Centrala Sprzetu Samochodowego, Central Office of Automotive Equipment), of Motozbyt (Centrala Zbytu Przemyslu Motoryzacyjnego, Central Sales Office of the Automotive Industry) issued a directive (No 45/53) on June 1953 regulating the sale and distribution of automotive tires and tubes. This directive had to be issued because the drivers were forwarding orders to the wrong institutions or had not been supplying enough information to make proper purchases.

The directive specifies that CSS Motozbyt sells the following types and sizes of tires and tubes exclusively for motor vehicles:

- 1 Sizes for trucks: 900 x 16, 1050 x 16, 1000 x 18, 190 x 20, 650 x 20, 700 x 20, 750 x 20, 825 x 20, 900 x 20, 975 x 20, 1050 x 20, 1100 x 20, 1200 x 20, 1300 x 20, 1100 x 20 (12 ply), 1100 x 20 (16 ply), 1100 x 22, 1200 x 22, 1100 x 24, 34 x 6, 34 x 7, and E-20 "Metalic."
- 2 Sizes for passenger vehicles: 400 x 15, 500 x 15, 525 x 15, 550 x 15, 670 x 15, 700 x 15, 760 x 15, 820 x 15, 500 x 16, 525 x 16, 550 x 16, 575 x 15, 600 x 16, 700 x 16, 750 x 16, 165 x 400 and 185 x 400.
- 3 Sizes for tractors: 400 x 15, 500 x 15, 550 x 16, 400 x 19, 600 x 20, 750 x 20, 11 x 24, 800 x 24, 900 x 24, 1125 x 24, 10 x 28, 1275 x 28, 10 x 32, 10 x 36, 900 x 36, 10 x 38, and 11 x 38.
- 4 Sizes for motorcycles: 400 x 18, 300 x 19, 325 x 19, 350 x 10, and 400 x 19.

The sale of tires, with the exception of motorcycle tires, is permitted only after the purchaser accounts for the tires and tubes to be replaced. In accordance with the directive, the document honored are those showing that the tires and tubes are:

1. Suitable for reconditioning [regeneracja], according to a certificate issued by the Reconditioning Plant (Fabryka Regeneratu) at Bolechowo, or by the Central Rubber Plants of the Coal Industry (Centralne Warsztaty Gumowe Przemyslu Weglowego), if the purchaser is an organization subject to the Ministry of Mining, operating in the Stalinogrod, Opole, Wroclaw, and Krakow wojewodztwos.
2. Not suitable for reconditioning and assigned to scrap, according to a certificate issued by the collection points of the Central Office of Usable Waste Products (Zbiornice Centrali Odpakow Uzytkowych), or other organizations authorized by CUGM (Centralny Urzad Gospodarki Materialowej, Central Office of Raw Materials).

If the purchaser cannot present proof of having turned in old tires and tubes, but can give a valid reason for not having this proof, the Motozbyt organization may make a sale on condition that the purchaser pledge in writing to supply this proof within 30 days of the date of receipt of the tires and tubes.

STAT

For every purchase of four automobile tires and tubes, the purchaser is obligated to accept one recapped tire /protektorowana/ or a repaired /naprawiona/ tire of the same size. Therefore, three new tires plus one recap are purchased or six new tires plus two recap, etc.

In accordance with the directive, the sale of tires and tubes for all sizes of domestic or foreign trucks, tractors, and trailers, in both the socialist and nonsocialist sector is made on the basis of distribution lists /probably a list of eligible purchasers/. The lists are forwarded to organizational units of the CSS Motozbyt by the Tire and Tube Section (Dzial Ogumienia) of the Motozbyt Administration.

Distribution lists of domestic tires and tubes apply to first- and second-quality products.

If stores do not have any recapped or repaired tires, they are permitted to sell a full set of new tires. If there are no new tires and tubes of first and second quality, the full order may be filled, in agreement with the purchaser, by recapped or repaired tires and tubes, or with 15-percent-used tires on hand.

Sale of tires and tubes for domestic or imported passenger vehicles and motorcycles of all sizes is made exclusively on the basis of written orders of customers addressed to the Local Office for Retail Sales (Terenowe Biuro Sprzedazy Detalicznej). This includes the sale of domestic tires and tubes of first and second quality, the recapped or repaired tires, and used tires.

At a sale of tires and tubes for passenger vehicles or motorcycles, the number of tires and the factory numbers of the tires are recorded in the motor vehicle books, which are then stamped by the Transportation Division (Wydzial Komunikacyjny) of the Presidium of the WRN (Wojewodzka Rada Narodowa, Wojewodztwo People's Council). If the purchaser buys the tires at the central office and there is no way of presenting all the motor vehicle books to the CSS Motozbyt office, the sale of tires may be made on basis of a written pledge by the central purchaser that he will properly insert the information in the motor vehicle books.

The maximum number of tires and tubes that can be sold in the socialist sector during a 12-month period is four sets /one tire and one tube constitute a set/ for passenger vehicles, two sets for motorcycles, and three sets for motorcycles with sidecars. However, possession of a sidecar for a motorcycle must be substantiated by a registration card.

The sale of tires and tubes for use on taxicabs is based on the distribution lists of the Tire and Tube Section of the Motozbyt Administration and is limited exclusively to domestic tires and tubes of second quality and to recapped and repaired tires and tubes.

The directive permits the sale of two sets per year of domestic tires and tubes of second quality for privately owned passenger vehicles, if the owner of the vehicle is a physician or is employed by a government bureau or enterprise. Under such conditions the sale is made on basis of documents showing that the vehicle is used for official purposes; the purchaser's application forms must be approved by governmental (or professional) authority.

If the vehicle is used exclusively for sport, in addition to the certificate of the place of employment, confirmation is needed from the sport club that the purchaser is an active member of the club and operates the vehicle for purposes of sport.

STAT

The application must contain the registration number of the vehicle and the given name, surname, and address of the purchaser. The sale of motorcycle tires and tubes for the nonsocialist sector is made through sport associations or to owners of motorcycles who use them for business purposes.

It is permissible to sell tires and tubes to purchasers in the nonsocialized sector in quantities up to four sets for one passenger vehicle, up to four sets for one motorcycle, and up to six sets for one motorcycle with a sidecar during one year, as long as the purchaser certifies with official documents that:

1. He bought the vehicle without tires or with tires completely destroyed.
2. The tires wore out ahead of time because of technical defects, or because of necessary intensive use of the vehicle.

In accordance with the directive of the Local Office for Retail Sales of Motosbyt, retail outlets may not sell tires and tubes to organizational units whose central office is located outside the territory covered by retailer. This does not apply to regional field offices of central purchasers.

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